

Test Valley Environment Action Group Meeting

at The Lights, Andover on

Thursday 10th September 2009

at 5.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Steve Lees (Chair, TVBC)
Karen Eastley (TVBC)
Peter Phillips (TVBC)
Kevin Harrington (TVBC)
Councillor Peter Boulton
Councillor Peter Giddings
Councillor Sandra Hawke
Councillor Zilliah Brooks
Councillor Jan Lovell
Councillor Ian Hibberd
Teresa Hibberd
Kim Candler (TVEI)

Paul Fresson (TTR)
Roz Fresson (TTR)
Graeme Lawes (TTA)
Edith Lux (TTA)
Carol Bartholomew (TTA / Test Valley
FOE)
Wendy Davis (TTA)
Simon Butler
John Niblett
Margaret Niblett
Philip Liddell

1. Welcome and Apologies

Steve Lees welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were received from Rachel Moroney, Anton Page, Cllr Chris Lynn, Cllr Mrs Finlay, Dr Robert Page, Charles Crosthwaite Eyre, Christine Cole and Mags Todd.

2. Notes of Last Meeting (16th June 2009)

No comments to report.

3 + 4. Presentations on behalf of Transition Towns Andover and Romsey

(Presenters: Roz Fresson (TTR), Graeme Lawes (TTA), Carol Bartholomew (TTA) and Wendy Davis (TTA))

Transition Towns are located throughout the country; these groups aim to respond to the issues of climate change and peak oil through encouraging local involvement. Both the Romsey and Andover Transition Towns are fairly new groups. The aims of Transition Towns include, local resilience, producing an energy decent plan, promoting decentralised energy and investing in the local community.

Both Transition Towns within the Borough include a core group and a number of smaller groups. Transition Town Romsey (<http://www.transitiontownromsey.org.uk/>) has a Food Group, Arts Group and Energy Group. Transition Town Andover has a Food Group and would like to start a Transport Group.

Through a proposal by the Transition Town group, Andover has been picked as a Green Community by the Energy Savings Trust (<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe>). Some initial training has been provided, while some funding and support is available from the Energy Savings Trust to deliver an energy project. Baseline information will be collected before the project is implemented to enable the results to be monitored. It is likely that an initial focus will be on insulation measures.

There was consideration of sustainability and schools. Schools were noted to have a big impact, for example schools account for 15% of CO₂ emissions in the public sector. There is a new government programme 'Sustainable Schools 2020' which includes a commitment to care through the curriculum, campus and community. Carbon reduction is a current priority.

A number of requests were put to Test Valley Borough Council to support the work of the Transition Towns groups; this included the use of Council venues (e.g. The Lights), help with publicity (possibly through TV News), help with networking, access to data, access to Council staff and Councillors, a sustainability action group and a named contact at the Council. It was noted that the named contact would be Steve Lees (can also contact Karen Eastley). In relation to matters involving funding, these would need further consideration.

Through the presentations and discussion, it was suggested that there should be greater information available on sustainability successes with the Borough, possibly through TV News. It may be appropriate to put more information on the LSP or Council website about community groups and climate change.

5. Presentation on behalf of Test Valley Energy Initiative

(Presenter: Kim Candler (TVEI))

Test Valley Energy Initiative has been running for a short period of time and focuses on the rural areas of the Borough. It wants to be an influencing organisation and raise awareness. The group established from interested Parish Councils. There are a number of activities which the group is focusing on, including energy savings (including providing case studies of different energy sources), raising awareness within the Parishes, links with schools and consideration of allotments.

6. Questions and Answers

This was covered under items 3 to 5.

7. Joint Areas of Focus Update

Not covered.

8. AOB

None

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Next meeting will be on the 1st December 2009 at the Council Offices, Duttons Road, Romsey.